

Paul L. Stoller (No. 016773)  
Ashley Crowell (No. 027289)  
DALIMONTE RUEB STOLLER, LLP  
2425 East Camelback Road, Suite 500  
Phoenix, Arizona 85016  
Telephone: (602) 888-2807  
[paul@drlawllp.com](mailto:paul@drlawllp.com)  
[ashley@drlawllp.com](mailto:ashley@drlawllp.com)

*Attorneys for Claimants*

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

IN RE: Bard IVC Filters Products  
Liability Litigation

Case No. MDL 15-02641-PHX-DGC

**AGREED MOTION TO ESTABLISH A QUALIFIED SETTLEMENT FUND  
AND TO APPOINT SETTLEMENT CLAIMS ADMINISTRATORS**

Dalimonte Rueb Stoller LLP (“Claimants’ Counsel”), hereby files this Agreed Motion to Establish a Qualified Settlement Fund and to Appoint Settlement Claims Administrator (the “Motion”) and respectfully move this Court for an Order (a) to establish a fund, which shall be called the Dalimonte Rueb Stoller Qualified Settlement Fund (the “Fund”) and (b) to appoint a Settlement Claims Administrator. In support of this Motion, movant respectfully state as follows:

1. Dalimonte Rube Stoller LLP (“DRS”) represents plaintiffs and other individuals, collectively “Claimants,” who are asserting claims and seeking damages arising out of certain alleged acts and events more particularly described in the Master Complaint filed in this MDL.

2. Defendant C.R. Bard, Inc., including Defendant’s parent companies, affiliates, subsidiaries, and any and all other of its past, present, and future related entities (collectively, “Bard”) is alleged to be liable for Claimants’ claims.

1           3.     Bard denies any and all liability to Claimants. In an effort to resolve their  
2 outstanding disputes, the Parties entered into a confidential “Master Compromise,  
3 Settlement, Release and Indemnity Agreement” between Bard, on the one hand, and DRS  
4 on the other hand (hereinafter the “Master Settlement Agreement”). Bard entered into the  
5 Master Settlement Agreement solely to avoid the expense, inconvenience, and burden of  
6 litigation, and the distraction and diversion of its personnel and resources; and has done so  
7 without admission of liability or wrongdoing.

8           4.     Bard has agreed to pay to the Fund a confidential settlement amount  
9 (“Settlement Amount”) in full settlement and discharge of all of the Claimants’ claims and  
10 in exchange for a full release and discharge and satisfaction of other settlement requirements  
11 by Claimants, as set forth in the Master Settlement Agreement and the Confidential  
12 Settlement Agreement and Release (hereinafter, the “Release”). The Master Settlement  
13 Agreement contemplates that the exact allocation among, and distribution to, the Claimants  
14 in settlement of their claims will be finalized at a future time based upon determinations  
15 that have yet to be made, which include consideration of the circumstances of the individual  
16 Claimants. Furthermore, the final reimbursement amount, if any, alleged by Medicare,  
17 Medicaid and or private lien holders with respect to these claims is also yet to be  
18 determined. The Parties, therefore, ask this Court to order the establishment of the Fund to  
19 facilitate resolution of those claims through collection, allocation, final disbursement, and  
20 accounting of settlement proceeds and to appoint a Settlement Claims Administrator in  
21 connection with these activities.

22           5.     Upon establishment of the Fund, and pursuant to the terms of the Master  
23 Settlement Agreement, Bard shall pay or cause to be paid the agreed-upon Settlement  
24 Amount into the Fund by wire transfer or check made payable to the Fund. All aspects of  
25 the administration of the Fund shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court until such  
26 time as the Fund has settled all eligible claims according to the terms of the Master  
27 Settlement Agreement.

28

1           6.       The Fund shall be a Qualified Settlement Fund as described in Treas. Reg.  
 2 Section 1.468B-1, established by order of this Court, and the Fund shall remain subject to  
 3 the continuing jurisdiction of this Court until such settlement payments are distributed to  
 4 eligible claimants according to the terms of the Master Settlement Agreement. Settlement  
 5 payments within the Bard Qualified Settlement Fund will be held in a fiduciary capacity.  
 6 The Fund shall comply with the Treasury Regulations Section 1.468B-1 et seq. regarding  
 7 taxation and tax reporting obligations.

8           7.       This Court shall have jurisdiction over this matter under Treas. Reg. Section  
 9 1.468B-1(c)(1), which states in relevant part that a Qualified Settlement Fund “is  
 10 established pursuant to an order of, or is approved by, the United States, any state (including  
 11 the District of Columbia), territory, possession, or political subdivision thereof, or any  
 12 agency or instrumentality (including a court of law) of any of the foregoing and is subject  
 13 to the continuing jurisdiction of that governmental authority.”

14           8.       Claimants request that the Court approve the appointment of ARCHER  
 15 Systems, LLC (“ARCHER”) as the Settlement Claims Administrator (the “Settlement  
 16 Claims Administrator”). ARCHER possesses comprehensive knowledge and experience  
 17 administering qualified settlement funds. ARCHER submits to the personal jurisdiction of  
 18 this Court. The Settlement Claims Administrator shall, upon request, prepare and deliver  
 19 to the Court such reports related to the administration of the Fund as the Court may request  
 20 from time to time. ARCHER’s address is as follows: 1775 St. James Place, Suite 200,  
 21 Houston, TX 77056.

22           9.       With the approval of and upon an order of this Court, the Fund shall fully  
 23 settle, subject to the satisfaction of all applicable terms and conditions as set forth in the  
 24 Master Settlement Agreement, all eligible claims. No settlement proceeds shall be set apart  
 25 for any individual Claimant, or otherwise made available so that he or she may draw upon  
 26 or otherwise control said settlement proceeds until such time as the Release is executed by  
 27 such Claimant and all other applicable terms and conditions are satisfied, in accordance  
 28 with the Master Settlement Agreement.

1           10. Subject to satisfaction of all applicable terms and conditions set forth in the  
2 Master Settlement Agreement and the Release, the Fund shall be liable to make payments  
3 to eligible claimants in the manner so specified in the Master Settlement Agreement.

4           11. The Settlement Claims Administrator may, with the consent of the persons  
5 with whom it enters into an individual Release, purchase and assign any structured  
6 settlements. The decision by some Claimants to elect structured settlements shall not  
7 preclude others from as prompt as possible a receipt of a lump sum cash award. Likewise,  
8 Claimants' Counsel may elect to place all or a portion of their contingent legal fees into one  
9 of several types of tax-advantaged investments as Plaintiffs' attorneys have the ability defer  
10 fees until a later taxable year.<sup>1</sup> To facilitate Claimants' structured settlements or attorney  
11 fee structure(s), if any, the Fund, by and through the Fund Administrator, may purchase and  
12 assign structured settlements whether "qualified"<sup>2</sup> or "non-qualified".<sup>3</sup> Any "qualified"  
13 structured settlement shall be issued by a life insurance company that holds an issuer credit  
14 rating equivalent to a National Association of Insurance Commissioners NAIC 1  
15 designation.

16           12. The Settlement Claims Administrator and/or its attorneys shall be  
17 indemnified and held harmless by Claimants from any claims made by any alleged  
18 lienholder, or other person or entity that attempts to assert a right of payment,  
19 reimbursement, or garnishment against the Fund. Should the Settlement Claims  
20 Administrator and/or its attorneys be named as a party to, or threatened to be made a party  
21 to, any portended, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding of any kind, whether

DALIMONTE REEF  
STOLLER, LLP  
PHOENIX, AZ

<sup>1</sup> See *Childs v. Commissioner*, 103 T.C. 634 (1994), *aff'd*, 89 F.3d 856 (11th Cir. 1996).

<sup>2</sup> Structured Settlement Payments are assigned to a qualified assignee by entering into qualified assignments of such structured settlement payments within the meaning of Section 130(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. The qualified assignee shall, respecting each person who is to receive periodic payments under a settlement agreement, purchase one or more qualified funding assets within the meaning of Section 130(d) of the Internal Revenue Code to fund any structured settlement payments assigned to the qualified assignee.

<sup>3</sup> A non-qualified assignment does not rely upon nor must it comply with Internal Revenue Code Section 104 and/or 130 to effect such assignment. See P.L.R. 200836019.

1 civil, administrative or arbitrative, and whether brought by or against or otherwise involving  
2 the Fund, by reason of the Settlement Claims Administrator and/or its attorneys having  
3 served in any capacity on behalf of the Fund, the Settlement Claims Administrator and/or  
4 its attorneys shall be indemnified and held harmless by the Claimants against reasonable  
5 expenses, costs, and fees (including attorney fees), judgment, awards, costs, amounts paid  
6 in settlement, and liabilities of all kinds incurred by the Settlement Claims Administrator  
7 and/or its attorneys in connection with or resulting from such actual or threatened action,  
8 suit or proceeding; except to the extent that it is finally determined by this Court that the  
9 Settlement Claims Administrator and/or its attorneys was/were negligent or acted with  
10 willful misconduct in connection with the administration of this Fund.

11 13. Bard shall have no responsibility for the expenses or administration of the  
12 Fund and shall have no liability to the Claimants in connection with such administration or  
13 decisions made by the Settlement Claims Administrator in the discharge of any and all  
14 Settlement Administrator' duties. Said expenses, if any, may be paid out of the Settlement  
15 Amount deposited and held in the Fund. Bard shall cooperate in the administration of the  
16 Fund to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate its terms, including providing all  
17 information reasonably necessary for the Settlement Claims Administrator, to complete the  
18 Fund's accounting. Aside from the foregoing sentence and subject to Bard's rights under  
19 the Master Settlement Agreement, no relationships or responsibilities are created hereby  
20 between Bard and the Fund and its Settlement Claims Administrator. Bard shall in no way  
21 be associated with the administration of the Fund or be liable in respect of any dispute  
22 between or among any Claimants and their respective counsel in respect of any costs,  
23 expenses, legal fees or litigation costs to be deducted from the Fund.

24 14. Claimants request that no bond be required, provided the Fund, which  
25 includes all principal and interest earned thereon, shall be deposited in an account  
26 comprised of (a) United States Agency, Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) or  
27 Treasury securities or obligations (or a mutual fund invested solely in such instruments),  
28 (b) cash equivalent securities, and/or (c) certificates of deposit, provided all said certificates

1 of deposit are fully insured by the FDIC. The Fund shall be held at The Huntington National  
2 Bank, One Rockefeller Center, 10<sup>th</sup> Fl., New York, New York, 10020 (hereinafter “Escrow  
3 Agent”), for the benefit of and titled in the legal name of the Fund according to the above  
4 terms and conditions and the Master Settlement Agreement, and said financial institution  
5 shall be responsible for any and all investment related decisions, pursuant to these terms  
6 and conditions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Escrow Agent shall not be allowed to  
7 distribute any income or principal from the Fund except upon the written instructions of the  
8 Settlement Claims Administrator upon written approval or authorization by Bard, or if  
9 requested, upon an order of this Court in accordance with, or as may be otherwise provided  
10 in, the Master Settlement Agreement.

11 15. The monies to be held in the Fund are the sole property of the Fund. Until  
12 such time as funds are distributed from the Fund, Claimants shall not possess any rights to  
13 demand or receive any portion of the escrowed funds and shall not possess any right to  
14 mortgage, pledge, or encumber the same in any manner. To the extent possible, as  
15 determined under federal income tax principles, this Motion shall be construed to prevent  
16 the Claimants from being in constructive receipt of any amounts held by the Fund.

17 16. Claimants request that the Settlement Claims Administrator be authorized to  
18 incur costs necessary to administer the Fund and hire professionals and other experts  
19 necessary to administer the Fund, including but not limited to, accountants, Special Masters  
20 counsel, mediators, or arbitrators, as necessary. Upon the satisfaction of all applicable terms  
21 and conditions set forth in the Master Settlement Agreement, all amounts to be paid from  
22 the Fund pursuant to the Master Settlement Agreement, including all expenses which may  
23 be incurred by the Settlement Claims Administrator and all costs associated with providing  
24 the agreed Releases shall be paid from the Fund or by Claimants’ Counsel and shall not be  
25 the responsibility of Bard. Distribution of these Fund amounts shall not require further  
26 Court Order.

27 17. All taxes on the income component of the Fund and expenses and costs  
28 incurred in connection with the taxation of the Fund (including, without limitation, expenses

1 of tax attorneys and accountants) shall be paid out of the Fund, shall be considered to be a  
2 cost of administration of the settlement, and shall be timely paid by the Settlement Claims  
3 Administrator without prior order of the Court.

4 18. Subject to the terms and conditions in the Master Settlement Agreement, the  
5 Settlement Claims Administrator shall have the right to rely upon any affidavit, certificate,  
6 letter, notice, electronic mail, or other document believed by the Settlement Claims  
7 Administrator to be genuine and sufficient, and upon any other evidence believed by the  
8 Settlement Claims Administrator, in his reasonable judgment, to be genuine and sufficient,  
9 which may be provided to the Settlement Claims Administrator by the Claimants, Bard, or  
10 their counsel.

11 19. The Settlement Claims Administrator shall be authorized to distribute all  
12 attorneys' fees and expenses to counsel for Claimants consistent with existing contingency  
13 fee contracts, upon deposit of settlement proceeds in the Fund and satisfaction of the  
14 required terms of the Master Settlement Agreement. Court approval for such distributions  
15 shall only be required to the extent required by law for claims involving deaths and/or  
16 minors.

17 20. Upon completion of any structured settlements agreements and final  
18 distribution of monies paid from the Fund to eligible claimants under the terms of the Master  
19 Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Claims Administrator shall take appropriate steps to  
20 wind-down the Fund, including remitting unused funds back to Bard, and thereafter be  
21 discharged from any further responsibility with respect to the Fund.

22 21. To the extent any paragraphs in this Motion conflict or are in any way  
23 inconsistent with the terms and conditions of the Master Settlement Agreement, the Master  
24 Settlement Agreement controls.

25 22. The Settlement Claims Administrator will obtain a Federal Taxpayer  
26 Identification Number for the Fund that is the subject of this Motion, upon the execution of  
27 an order by the Court establishing the Fund.

28 ///

1 WHEREFORE, Claimants respectfully request that the Court enter an Order:

- 2 a. Establishing the Fund as a Qualified Settlement Fund within the meaning of  
3 Treas. Reg. Section 1.468B-1 and pursuant to the jurisdiction conferred on  
4 this Court by Treas. Reg. Section 1.468B-1(c)(1);
- 5 b. Appointing ARCHER Systems, LLC as the Settlement Claims Administrator  
6 pursuant to the terms, conditions, and restrictions of this Motion and granting  
7 said Administrator the authority to conduct any and all activities necessary to  
8 administer this Fund as described in this Motion;
- 9 c. Authorizing the Fund, subject to the approval of and upon further order of this  
10 Court following joint motion by Claimants and Bard under the terms and  
11 conditions as set forth in the Master Settlement Agreement, to enter into  
12 individual Releases with persons asserting Claims, including the use of  
13 settlements with periodic payments and authorizing the Fund to effect  
14 qualified assignments of any resulting structured settlement liability within  
15 the meaning of Section 130(c) of the Internal Revenue Code to the qualified  
16 assignee; and
- 17 d. Authorizing the Settlement Claims Administrator, following completion of  
18 all structured settlement agreements and final distribution of monies paid  
19 from the Fund to eligible claimants under the terms of the Master Settlement  
20 Agreement, to take appropriate steps to wind-down the fund, including  
21 remitting unused funds back to Bard, and thereafter discharging the  
22 Settlement Claims Administrator from any further responsibility with respect  
23 to the Fund.

24 DATED: October 21, 2021.

25 Respectfully submitted,

26 */s/ Paul L. Stoller*

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul L. Stoller, Esq.

28 Dalimonte Rueb Stoller, LLP

2425 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 500  
Phoenix, AZ 85016  
Phone: 602.888.2807  
Email: [paul@drlawllp.com](mailto:paul@drlawllp.com)  
**ON BEHALF OF CLAIMANTS**

**AGREED AS TO SUBSTANCE AND FORM:**

/s/ Bina Palnitkar  
**Russell Gaudreau**  
gaudreau@gtlaw.com  
**Bina Palnitkar**  
bina@gtlaw.com  
**Greenberg Traurig, LLP**  
2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 5200  
Dallas, TX 75201  
P: 214.665.3727  
F: 214.665.3601  
**ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT**  
**C.R. BARD, INC.**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 21st day of October 2021, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ Paul L. Stoller  
Paul L. Stoller